

Application No. 10/689,727

Docket No.: U2054.0144

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9-38, 48, 50-69 and 71-79 are pending. Claims 1-6, 8, 39-47, 49, 70 and 80-84 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 7, 9, 20-30, 36-38, 48, 50, 78 and 79 have been amended. Claims 7, 38 and 48 are the independent claims.

Initially, Applicants again request that the priority document acknowledgement section of the Office Action Summary be completely filled out in the next Office Action. Box 12(a)(1) was inadvertently not checked in the Office Action Summary of the most recent Office Action.

The Examiner contacted the undersigned by telephone to propose certain amendments to the claims that would place the claims in condition for allowance. In particular, the Examiner proposed adding the subject matter of claims 8, 39 and 49 to independent claims 7, 38 and 48, respectively. Those proposed amendments have been effected. All of the other claims that had been under rejection have now been cancelled without prejudice. In view of the above, independent claims 7, 38 and 48 are now believed clearly allowable.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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